

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATIC TASK FOCUS SWAPPING  
DURING BROWSER WAIT TIME

A method and system in a computer within a computer network for automatically swapping application tasks running within the computer when access from the computer to a remote network site is delayed. Initially, a link from a local network site to a remote network site utilizing a communications application while multi-tasking applications are simultaneously running at the local network site is initiated. Data is thereafter retrieved from the remote network site <sup>is then initiated</sup> in response to initiating the link. Focus is then automatically switched from the communications application to a multi-tasking application simultaneously running at the local network site, in response to ~~initiation of the data retrieval~~ ~~data being retrieved from~~ ~~the remote network site by the communications application~~. Focus is thereafter switched back to the communications application from the multi-tasking application, in response to ~~the data being retrieved~~. In addition, focus may be automatically switched back to the communications application from the multi-tasking application after expiration of a predetermined time period. Distinction is made between time consuming links and immediate links. A determination is made whether the link invoked is a time consuming link or an immediate link. If the link is a time consuming link, focus is automatically switched to a multi-tasking application simultaneously running at the network site, in response to data being retrieved, only if the link is a time consuming link. However, if the link is an immediate link, focus remains within the communications application retrieving data from the remote network site. The communications application may be implemented as a browser application.